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P. Cronkite, WALTER

CIA 9.01 ASSASSINATION

ORGI MAFIA

CASTRO, Fidel

(Craig under Cronkite)

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Walter Cronkite

STATION WTOP Radio  
CBS Network

DATE May 20, 1975 7:19 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

CIA & MAFIA

~~FOUL TEXT~~

CHARLES KURALT: This is Charles Kuralt reporting with news and commentary on the CBS Radio Network.

A conspiracy between the CIA and the Mafia to kill Fidel Castro?

Sounds like the plot of a bad spy thriller, another incredible episode in the career of James Bond. But the story doesn't come from fiction. It comes, according to the New York "Times," from recent history, as revealed to the Rockefeller Commission's investigation of CIA activities.

The story, of course, isn't really new. Columnist Jack Anderson had it as far back as 1967. What is new is that the Rockefeller panel has learned of documents in the Justice Department files that nail down the story.

The tale isn't all that uniquely bizarre, either. It's just one in a series of recently exposed cloak-and-dagger escapades which seem to prove that if the authors of spy novels possessed any genuine imagination they'd be doing the real thing for the government.

Or maybe it all proves just the opposite, that some CIA people would have been better advised to take up fiction.

A look, after this message.

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We've all known for a long time that the CIA conducts what are called covert operations, always very hush-hush, of course.

And until recently, there had been practically nothing in the way of hard evidence or reliable details of how far those operations went.

But we've had plenty of food to nourish our imaginations -- rumors, occasional charges by Communist governments, which we didn't believe -- not quite -- and, of course, the prolific dire imaginings of people who write

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